

HYDE PARK OBSTRUCTIVE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.

It is strange that the want of a thoroughfare through the park, an extent of two miles and a-half from Park-lane to Kensington, has not more frequently been made a subject of animadversion and remonstrance in the public journals,—that two districts so populous as Baywater and its lateral causeways, together with Knightsbridge, Brompton, and the Gore, should, after ten o'clock at night, be debarred access one to the other by a short traverse of about half-a-mile, or that those important suburbs should have to bear the heavy infliction of a three-mile course (by Park-lane or Notting-hill), and this only in order to secure the liberties of the Crown—in the doubtful seclusion of the park: the liberties of the Crown in this instance are strangely repugnant to the liberties of the people. Of what earthly advantage can it be to shut in these 680 acres of pasture, or to prohibit Mrs. Valley from re-crossing to Kensington Gore after supper with Mrs. Hill at Hyde-park-square?

The deer no longer pasture in the park; the hamadryads have long since deserted it; whether any wood nymphs remain amongst the glades is best known to the pulce.

It is now twenty years since I saw a dog shot by a verderer near the present receiving-house, because he could not read the notice near the pales,—“No dogs admitted.” But worse and more barbarous is the childish custom which still remains, of closing the barriers by ten o'clock, preventing the man of business, the artisan, or the labourer, from taking the shortest cut home, whether it be after working or feasting.

There ought to be open at all hours at least one leading thoroughfare—suppose from Westbourne-terrace by the bridge over the Serpentine, to Prince's Gate: this would be a central traverse, and a saving of two miles to dwellers of the vicinage!

Often have I seen soldiers and others escalating the spiked iron gates, at the risk of life, to cut off but half-a-mile. This appeared to me then to be fool-hardy, if not needless; but last night, being hurried to get home, I unhappily tried the same expedient at Grosvenor Gate, and, not suspecting that the spikes in the central castings were sharp, I dropped my whole weight downward, having cleared the bristling daggers on the top: the spikes penetrated my shoe, and made a deep contused wound in my foot, which bids fair to keep me long an invalid. I have reason to know that many have been seriously hurt in the same way, but that the police, although cognizant of such facts, confine their reports to the sheet at the station-house. Surely the broad-sheet may effect some change in this matter by exposing the evils referred to in the public press. If the Woods and Forests are determined to persist in their absurd and feudal rights of exclusion, they should advertise the public that the spikes on the rails are whetted, the better to impale trespassers. Indeed, if, in addition to sharpening, they were to poison the points, no one might blame them, provided notices were posted to this effect.—“The railings of this park are both sharp and envenomed.”

QUONDAM.

CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The approaching meeting at Manchester and Lancaster, from August 19th to 24th inclusive, promises well. The patrons are, the Earl of Derby, as Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, and the Lord Bishop of Manchester. James Heywood, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., is the president; and the list of vice-presidents, including the High-Sheriff of Lancashire, Earl Ducie, Earl of Wilton, the Earl of Ellesmere, the Dean of Manchester, the Mayor of Manchester, the Mayor of Lancaster, the Mayor of Preston, and the Mayor of Salford, comprises fifty names. The general committee consists of ninety names. The arrangements for the week include—

On Monday, 19th, Examination of the Cathedral: Meeting of the Members of the General Committee; the President's Address at the Evening Meeting; Paper on the Study of Archaeology, and the particular Objects of the Association, by Mr. Pettigrew, vice-president; on the Architecture and History of the Cathedral, by Mr. Ashpitel; on the

Staley Crust, by Mr. Planché; on the Structure of the Norman Castle in England, by the Rev. J. C. Bruce, M.A. 20th. Excursions to Whalley, Ribchester, &c.; Evening Meeting at Lancaster: Remarks on the History of Ancient Lancaster, by Dr. James Johnson; on the Badges of the House of Lancaster, by Mr. Planché. 21st. Visit to Farnese Abbey, Peel Castle, &c.; on the Antiquities of Furness, by Mr. W. D. Haggerd; Meeting at Lancaster, in the Evening; on Farnese Abbey, by Mr. Ed. Sharpe; on ancient Timber Houses, by Mr. J. Adey Repton. 22nd. Examination of Lancaster Castle; Visit to Hornby Castle; Return to Evening Meeting at Manchester. Papers by the Rev. Dr. Hume, Mr. W. Beaumont, Messrs. Just and J. Harland, and Dr. Wm. Bell. 23rd. Papers by Mr. Harland, Mr. G. J. French, Mr. J. O. Halliwell, Dr. W. V. Pettigrew, Mr. Edw. Pretty, Rev. Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., &c.; Public Dinner at the Albion. 24th. Visit to Cheetham's Hospital and Library.—Account of Cheetham, and his foundation; Papers by Mr. Roach Smith, Mr. W. H. Rogers, Mr. James Thompson, &c., and Close of the Proceedings.

We shall be there to pick up what information we can for our readers, and report architectural progress in the locality.

CHURCH BUILDING NEWS.

St. Thomas's Church, Woolwich, recently consecrated, has been erected at a cost of about 4,000*l*. It has accommodation for 800 sitters, in open pews. The funds were raised by subscriptions, and the site was granted by Sir Thomas Wilson, who also largely subscribed.—A subscription, says the *Worcester Journal*, will be commenced forthwith for raising funds for building a Chapel of Ease in the parish of Bellbroughton. The rector offers to commence the subscription with a hundred pounds, and a site is expected will be given in or near the village of Fairfield.—The parish church of Malpas, near Newport (Wales), has been rebuilt on the old site. Mr. Prothero, of Malpas Court, had offered 500*l*. to have it rebuilt near his residence, and although this offer was rejected he contributed 250*l*. to the rebuilding, of the whole cost of which a considerable sum still remains to be made up. The new building is from a plan by Mr. John Pritchard, diocesan architect, in the Romanesque style. Mr. James, of Newport, was the builder. The seats are open—there are no doors—and the roof is also an open one, slightly ornamented. The church is intended to accommodate 150 persons.—The little church of Papworth St. Everard parish has been restored and almost rebuilt, at the expense, chiefly, of the Cheere family. Amongst the windows, which are all new, is at least one of stained glass. The roof is open, as are the seats. The altar-floor is laid with tessellated pavement.—Comberton Church has, through the exertions of the incumbent, been repaired; the pews have been replaced by open seats, and there are still repairs going on.—The Bishop of Lichfield consecrated a new church at Smallthorpe, parish of Norton-in-the-Moors, near Burslem, on Friday week. The seats are all free, with open benches, and accommodate 300 persons. The total cost of the church was about 1,500*l*., of which 500*l*. were subscribed by Mr. C. B. Adderley, M.P., who also gave the land for the church and church-yard, and an endowment of 100*l*. for the church.—“We are sorry,” says the *Leeds Intelligencer*, “to see that Meanwood Church, which was only consecrated in October last, is at present stripped of the slates. This measure has been rendered necessary in consequence of the imperfect construction of the roof. Loud complaints had been made from the first opening of the church, of cold currents of air descending upon the heads of the congregation; and it was at length discovered, that by some culpable negligence, the space between the eaves and the top of the walls had been left entirely open all round the church. This defect was partially remedied, on remonstrances being made to the architect and the contractor, but still the evil of cold currents of air remained too great to be endured. Attention was then turned to the roof itself, and it appeared that the roof was of so slight construction as to be quite unsuited for a climate like ours. Upon the spars was laid a simple inch boarding, and upon the boarding, without any lime or other substance, were nailed the slates: and this was

the only defence that stood between the congregation and the open air. The boards had naturally shrunk from the heating of the church, the joints of the boards had opened, and the cold air consequently rushed into the church in all directions. It is hoped that both these defects will now be remedied by the measures to be adopted by beam-filling under the eaves, and by thickening the roof with layers of felt between the boards and the slates. We understand that this imperfect construction of roofs is by no means unusual in new churches, and we hope that the attention thus drawn to the subject will put both architects and builders on their guard against such serious mistakes in future. The expense in this case is defrayed by the Misses Beckett, the founders, but it is surely one to which the founders and promoters of churches ought never to be put.”—St. Matthew's Church, Grosmont, near Whithy, was consecrated on Thursday, in last week. The style is Early English. The design is a porch at the west end of a body without aisles, having a chancel projection at the eastern termination. The porch is built and buttressed with the view of being raised into a tower, to finish with a spire. The church at the sides exhibits three sets of triplet lancet windows between buttresses, and at the east end of chancel a five lancet light. There are no galleries in the interior, and the roof is of the latter description coloured like oak. The entire length of the edifice is 60 feet, the breadth 40 feet, and it contains 48 pews (216 sittings). The workmanship was by Mr. Stonehouse, of Whithy. The font, formerly belonging to one of the old chapels or cells of this district, is of great antiquity, with a modern pediment and cover. The churchyard is fenced in by a dry stone wall with a coping set in mortar, and a pair of iron gates at the principal entrance, with a wooden gate at the other entrance, the expense of all which, including fitting up and levelling ground and making approaches, amounts to 70*l*. The cost of the church itself was about 1,260*l*. raised by private donations.—The parish church of Laceby, near Great Grimsby, is about to be repaired on a plan already in the hands of the rector.—The 342*l*. subscribed in Cork towards the national monument to O'Connell, which it was proposed to erect in the Glasnevin cemetery, has been diverted to the fitting up of a stained window in Father Mathew's new chapel. The window has been put up by a London house.—The first stone of St. Matthew's Church, in the district parish of St. Paul's, Islington, was laid on Saturday last, by the Rev. John Sandys. The church is designed by Mr. A. D. Gough, architect. It is intended to accommodate 1,050 persons, and 400 of the sittings will be free.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The Masonic Asylum at Croydon has been consecrated, with all due ceremonial.—In removing some damp arches at the Blind Asylum, Park-street, Bristol, on Monday in last week, a mass of brick fell against a central pillar, which, along with other similar pillars, supported an entire range of arches, and the whole were, in consequence, thrown down, burying two men, one of whom was killed.—School buildings are about to be erected for the district of St. John the Evangelist, Durdham Down, Bristol, on plans by Mr. Frupp, of that city.—The one-half of Glasbury-bridge, Brecon, is about to be repaired.—The Liverpool merchants have resolved to erect a statue to the late Sir Robert Peel, either in St. George's Hall or some other public building in Liverpool. In two days 650*l*. were collected.—The subscription for the Peel monument at Manchester had lately reached the sum of 4,700*l*. A site for a statue was about to be decided on.—A subscription has been set on foot for a monument, at Leeds, to the same statesman. There seems to be a desire, however, to unite this object with the project of a public hall, some time since started. This hall it is proposed to erect at a cost of 15,000*l*., for the accommodation of 1,500 persons, seated, or three or four times that number standing.—A bank for the Yorkshire Banking Company is about to be erected at Bradford, on a design by Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, of Bradford, architects.—A new Infant School has